

**Goal:** Strengthen Seattle’s food system sustainability and security by increasing local production, equitable access and neighborhood distribution of healthy, nutritious food. Table 1 outlines the following regulatory changes to support this goal.

<b>Table 1. Policy Options</b> <b>Food System Sustainability and Security</b>			
<b>Policy Objective</b>	<b>Phase I (2009-10)</b>	<b>Phase II (2010)</b>	<b>Phase III</b>
<b>Production</b> <i>Increase the City’s capacity to produce more locally grown food.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add a definition to the Land Use Code for “Community Garden” and allow outright in all zones as a principal and accessory use.</li> <li>2. Refine definitions for Horticulture, Aquaculture and Animal Husbandry.</li> <li>3. Add a definition to the land use code for “Urban Farm” and allow as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential zones – uses up to 4,000 SF allowed outright as accessory use, and administrative conditional use permit for greater than 4,000 SF;</li> <li>• Commercial zones – allowed outright as principal or accessory use (no size restriction);</li> <li>• Industrial zones - allowed on top of buildings, and anywhere on the lot outside MICs;</li> <li>• In NC/C/I/Downtown/SM zones, allow greenhouses to be rooftop features and allowed to have a 15-foot exception to height limits if they are dedicated to food production.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Change Land Use Code regulations to allow people in residential zones to grow and sell unprocessed produce on their property.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Challenge state regulations that prohibit selling produce grown on city-owned property.</li> <li>2. Add policies to address food production, access, distribution and consumption to the Comprehensive Plan as part of the 2010/2011 updates.</li> <li>3. Through the sustainability framework, incorporate local food planning and policy into the neighborhood planning process.</li> <li>4. Explore options for TDR programs for agricultural land in King County.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support and encourage pilot programs for innovative food production possibilities: green roofs, school farms, vertical farms, etc.</li> </ol>

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**Table 1. Policy Options**  
**Food System Sustainability and Security**

Policy Objective	Phase I (2009-10)	Phase II (2010)	Phase III
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow existing urban horse farms to continue to operate in all zones. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the option of including miniature horses as allowed under animal husbandry regulations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Establish a Living Building Pilot Program that would expand the Land Use Code departures allowed through design review to allow consideration of accessory uses such as urban agriculture where they are not currently allowed by code - COMPLETED.</li> <li>Expanding Green Factor (which has a food production bonus) requirements to MF, and IC zones in urban villages/centers – COMPLETED for MR &amp; HR, PROPOSED for LR &amp; IC in urban villages/centers.</li> </ol>		
<b>Access</b> <i>Ensure all City residents have access to healthy, fresh, local food choices.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the Land Use Code for amendment opportunities to ensure that the inclusion of small-mid size grocery stores in NC and C zones is encouraged (grocery stores are defined and considered a multipurpose use).</li> <li>Create a reasonable definition for “access” that will guide future policy work. Possibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By census tract</li> <li>Distance from residence</li> <li>Food affordability study</li> </ul> </li> <li>Explore the possibility of increasing the number of chickens allowed to be kept in residential zones.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore zoning incentives to encourage permanent farmers markets, and refine the definition of farmers’ markets.</li> <li>Explore zoning incentives for grocery stores in new developments (require a minimum square footage for sale of fresh produce). Possible incentives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional square footage</li> <li>Waive parking requirements</li> <li>Allow as street level use in P-zones.</li> <li>Density bonus (add’l housing units)</li> <li>Additional height</li> <li>Additional incentives for urban building types: combined grocery/office or grocery/housing.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	

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**Food System Sustainability and Security**

Policy Objective	Phase I (2009-10)	Phase II (2010)	Phase III
<b>Distribution</b> <i>Encourage multiple approaches for distributing locally grown food.</i>	1. Explore options for defining farmers' markets as a use permitted outright (currently allowed under an intermittent use permit).	1. Exempt farmers markets from SEPA regulations (Combine with other changes to SEPA thresholds; this is done at the state level). 2. Using previous research that has identified "food deserts," develop incentives to encourage grocery stores and healthy corner stores in these areas; or create a food district overlay. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibility that additional food desert mapping/research needs to be done.</li> </ul> 3. Create additional design/development standards for grocery stores to ensure compatibility with neighborhoods. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow produce stands/signs on sidewalk (SDOT).</li> </ul> 4. Examine code barriers to current food distribution patterns and develop incentives for new distribution methods. 5. Identify and promote zoning for food businesses that improve food distribution in Seattle. 6. Incentives for demonstrated close proximity of food production and distribution to grocery stores and restaurants. 7. Identify urban farming infrastructure needs as part of a larger green infrastructure system. 8. Define farmers' markets; definition should be aligned with King County, and other departments in the City of Seattle.	1. Identify areas (food deserts) for possible rezone to NC w/food distribution overlay or other incentives for grocery store development.

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Policy Objective	Phase I (2009-10)	Phase II (2010)	Phase III
<b>Consumption</b> <i>Discourage access to unhealthy food choices, particularly in food deserts and low income neighborhoods.</i>			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Change zoning regulations to discourage fast food restaurants. (Fast food already has a definition in the land use code).</li> <li>2. Change zoning regulations to discourage fast food restaurants, unhealthy mobile vending, and unhealthy convenience stores from locating near or around schools.</li> </ol>